

BLOG Quarter 3 2011 : Written by Jerry Filor

October brought us to the Gate Hangs Well and Matt's newest and youngest member managed to sleep through it all (what does this say about our club nights I ask you ?).

Clive is cracking on with Cyril and showed



some pictures of his mini sporting a clam shell bonnet lift design (bonnet and wings having been welded together). The target is

to get Cyril on the road for our Christmas Curry night on the 15th December, at The Wheel in Rearsby (same as last year....). Good luck !



There was a lot of turbo technical talk from James G and Jaffa, so we could be seeing some highly tuned motors amongst our ranks very soon.....Matt is the only one presently, with his MG Metro Turbo'ed Van.....

Mark said he is currently negotiating for a Vauxhall red top engine, sub frame and drive shafts. This will be destined for the installation into Pete's ex-clubbie estate and form the "show vehicle" of MB Motors.... He already has a gearbox and most of the ancillaries but needs a clutch !

Robins mini is still work in progress with work continuing on the engine and gearbox rebuilds....hopefully we will see it back on the road this side of Christmas !

Conversation then concentrated on Carls Rat.....it was a bit Ratty (pardon the pun) in the engine department, since his recent rebuild. It is suspected to be bent conrods and Carl has bought some from new second hand (if that makes sense) ones from the well known auction site to give them a go ! during our November meeting he went on to explain that he has now fitted the new conrods and bearing shells but now thinks (but hope it isn't so) that the crank may be damaged ☹ . On the plus side, he did say it isn't as noisy as it was !

James H's mini is almost back on the road, re-sprayed and almost mechanically complete. He just has the turbo installation to finish ! yet another Turbo about to appear.....club outings will never be so slow again !

Matt has a bike engine project that he is starting (because he can't get his new bundle of joy in the back of the van past the roll cage...). He has a shell already and is getting the bits together for a ZXR based, front mounted screamer....this lead to a conversation about low speed parking and 13" wheels ! Motorbike engines typically don't need reverse, so a method of reverse (using a starter motor) is also likely to be needed. Matt mentioned that he had seen someone use a Vauxhall Corsa power steering set up in a mini which is an interesting concept !

SLOT CAR SPECIAL - DECEMBER

With eager anticipation we arrived at the Slot car club to flex fingers in competition for the coveted trophy (still being welded up by Clive

WREAKE

MINI WANDERERS

!). Jon was worried that Dougie would turn up, out of the blue, and beat everyone again !

Only the 4 middle lanes were used, due to driver numbers, and it was clear from practice that the Brown lane and car would be everyone's bogey lane as it seemed that the brown car was far more twitchy than the others. It could of course have been driver error, but lets be honest, a poor workman always blames the tools !

Clive's banzia laps to attempt the double of fastest lap (but finishing last) almost happened ! however this year, Joint 6th place was shared with Matt and Ed, so not strictly last....Unfortunately fastest lap honours went to Neil, so Clive couldn't claim that accolade this year. Well done to Neil just pipping him by 0.1 of a second....

Another hard charger this year was James G, finishing 5th. Neil finished 4th with Jon on the bottom step of the podium (for a change).....I was second and a very consistent Chris took the top step for 1st !

Its always a good night, well organised and a bit of a laugh. Obviously its not too competitive (honest) and hopefully we can organise a full grid for next year !

Clive is desperate to show off his prowess on a proper racing track, using the medium of karting ! I'm sure we can organise this at either the indoor track at Wymeswold or the outdoor track at Stretton 2000 (Stoughton) when it warms up a bit in the New Year.

SOCIAL BIT :

15th December : Christmas Curry Night @ The Wheel in Rearsby. 7.30pm for 8pm eating....dont be late !

26th January : Club Night : Gate Hangs Well from 7.30pm.....to decide on the 2012 calendar and a general catch up !

29th January 2012 : Bingley Hall, don't forget your advanced queue busting ticket for £9....it really is worth it, just ask Calum !

5th – 6th May : Donington Historic Festival. We have a club pitch booked and a special code for buy 1 get 1 free tickets....this is a very good event and well worth attending !

